



N E W S R E L E A S E

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\$200,000 Grant to Help Laid-Off Manufacturing Employees Receive Job Training Services

SACRAMENTO – A \$205,000 state grant will help more than 100 workers laid off by a Santa Rosa medical device manufacturer learn new skills and find employment in high-demand industries.

“These are skilled workers, but their skills were specifically designed for their jobs at Medtronic Cardiovascular,” Patrick Henning, Director of the state Employment Development Department (EDD), said. “It’s imperative that they receive additional training to help them find new jobs with comparable wages.”

Many of the 112 workers are not fluent in English, and Sonoma County Job Link will offer them English as a Second Language classes. Those who have not received high school diplomas will be placed in GED classes.

A survey of the workers indicated that most of them are interested in re-training, with many expressing an interest in the health care field. Clients will be assessed and tested for career planning, and receive resume creation and job search assistance, as well as interview skills training. Sonoma County Job Link will provide training to prepare individuals for high-demand occupations in the local area, including those in health care, hospitality and local government.

The grant was awarded to the Sonoma County Workforce Investment Board. Funding for the program is drawn from the Governor’s 25 percent portion of Dislocated Worker Funds from Title I of the federal Workforce Investment Act and is under the administrative authority of the California Labor and Workforce Development Agency’s EDD.

For more information about this project, please contact the Sonoma County Workforce Investment Board at (707) 565-8501.

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